What is claimed is:

1. In a motor/gear drive wherein a motor shaft has a worm gear carried thereon and a tip end terminating in an end wall, a bore in a motor/gear housing coaxial with the output shaft, the improvement comprising:

an annular sleeve concentrically disposed about a tip end portion of a drive shaft and nominally spaced from the tip end portion; and

wherein the sleeve supportingly engages the tip end portion of the drive shaft, under radial loads acting to deflect the drive shaft.

2. The improvement of claim 1 wherein the sleeve is an injection molded sleeve.

3. The improvement of claim 1 wherein:

the sleeve has a bore extending therethrough, the bore having an inner diameter larger than the outer diameter of the tip end portion of the shaft.

4. The improvement of claim 1 further comprising:

a thrust member disposed in the bore in the housing in coaxial registry with the end wall of the shaft; and

wherein the engagement of the thrust member with the end wall of the drive shaft prevents axial movement of the drive shaft.

5. The improvement of claim 4 wherein:

the thrust member is an injection molded thrust member.

6. In a motor/gear drive wherein a motor shaft has a worm gear carried thereon and a tip end terminating in an end wall, a bore in a motor/gear

housing coaxial with the output shaft, the improvement comprising:

a thrust member disposed in the bore in the housing in coaxial registry with the end wall of the shaft; and

wherein the engagement of the thrust member with the end wall of the drive shaft prevents axial movement of the drive shaft.

7. The improvement of claim 6, wherein:

the thrust member is an injection molded thrust member.

8. A method of manufacturing a motor/gear drive wherein the motor/gear drive has a drive shaft carrying a worm gear, and a tip end portion terminating in an end wall, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a bore in a motor/gear drive housing, the bore having a first bore portion of a first diameter and an axially endmost, coaxial, second bore portion of a smaller diameter;

forming a shoulder between the first and second bore portions;

forming a first gate in the housing communicating with the first bore portion;

inserting a mold core into the housing, the mold core having a first end portion with a diameter larger than the outer diameter of the tip end portion of the drive shaft and a second larger diameter portion with a shoulder formed between the first and second portions sealingly closing the first bore portion in the housing, the first bore portion and the end portion of the mold core forming an interior cavity therebetween;

injecting molten plastic into the interior cavity through the first gate to form a sleeve having an inner diameter surface surrounding a hollow bore; and

removing the mold core.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

forming a bearing mounting surface in the housing; and

forming the mold core with a surface engagable with the bearing surface in the housing to concentrically align the mold core and the first bore portion in the housing.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

forming a first flange on the housing;

forming a second flange on the mold core; and

engaging the first and second flanges to align a longitudinal axis of the mold core with an axis extending through the first bore portion.

11. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

forming a second gate in the housing communicating with the second bore portion;

forming an end wall of the drive shaft with an outer diameter larger than the diameter of the second bore portion;

disposing the end wall of the drive shaft to sealingly close off an end of the second bore portion;

inserting the drive shaft of the motor/gear drive into the housing with the tip end portion of the drive shaft extending through the first bore portion;

disposing the end wall of the drive shaft to sealing close the second bore portion; and

injecting molten plastic through the second gate into the second bore portion to form a thrust member in the second bore portion in registry with the end wall of the drive shaft.

12. A method of manufacturing a motor/gear drive wherein the motor/gear drive has a drive shaft carrying a worm gear, and a tip end portion terminating in an end wall, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a second gate in the housing communicating with the second bore portion;

forming an end wall of the drive shaft with an outer diameter larger than the diameter of the second bore portion;

disposing the end wall of the drive shaft to sealingly close off an end of the second bore portion;

inserting the drive shaft of the motor/gear drive into the housing with the tip end portion of the drive shaft extending through the first bore portion;

disposing the end wall of the drive shaft to sealing close the second bore portion; and

injecting molten plastic through the second gate into the second bore portion to form a thrust member in the second bore portion in registry with the end wall of the drive shaft.

13. A method of manufacturing a motor/gear drive wherein the motor/gear drive has a drive shaft carrying a worm gear, and a tip end portion terminating in an end wall, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a bore in a motor/gear drive housing, the bore having a first bore portion of a first diameter; and

injection molding a sleeve in the first bore portion, the sleeve having a through bore with an inner diameter larger than the outer diameter of a tip end portion of the motor/gear drive shaft.

14. A method of manufacturing a motor/gear drive wherein the motor/gear drive has a drive shaft

carrying a worm gear, and a tip end portion terminating in an end wall, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a bore in a motor/gear drive housing, the bore receiving a tip end portion of a drive shaft; and

injection molding a thrust member in the housing in registry with the tip end portion of the drive shaft, the thrust member limiting axial movement of the drive shaft.